REMARKS

Claims 8-14 and 16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 14 is amended. No new matter is added.

Claims 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by, or 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over, Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,658,987). This rejection is traversed as it may apply to amended claim 14 and its dependent claim 16.

The Office Action asserts that Nakamura et al. disclose a composition having a block copolymer with blocks of identical composition and molecular weight as two rubbers "A" and "B" with which it is blended (see Production Example 3 in col. 5). It is also taught at col. 3, lines 49-56 that the block copolymer acts as a compatibilizer.

Production Example 3 of Nakamura et al. discloses compositions containing block copolymers C-1 to C-5, in addition to the two random copolymers A and B. These block copolymers act as a compatibilizer (see col. 3 lines 49-56). This citation in Nakamura et al. also discloses that the block copolymer is composed of blocks having the same composition and the same molecular weight as those of random block copolymers A and B.

However, as shown in Table 1 of Nakamura et al., all of the polymers A, B, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4 and C-5 have similar average molecular weights as follows.

Polymer	A	B	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	C-5
Average Molecular Weight $(x\ 10^{-4})$	87	92	90	92	92	89	89

If the two blocks of the block copolymers have the same weight average molecular weights of the copolymers A and B, the molecular weight of the block

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copolymer should be the molecular weight of the copolymer A plus the molecular weight of the copolymer B. The above description is not correct. Thus, it is clear that the above description is intended to be "the molecular weight of the entire block copolymer is equal to the molecular weight of the copolymer A or B". Accordingly, the molecular weight of each block of the block copolymers (C-1) to (C-5) of Nakamura et al. should be obtained, based upon the weight average molecular weight of the entire copolymer and the block ratio, shown in Table 1. The results of the calculation are as follows:

	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	C-5
Molecular weight of block having the same composition of B (x 10^{-4})	9^{*1}	27.6	46.2	62.3	80.1
Molecular weight of B/Molecular weight of the above block	10.2^{*2}	3.3	2	1.5	1.1
Molecular weight of block having the same composition of A (x 10^{-4})	81^{*3}	64.4	46	26.7	8.9
Molecular weight of A/Molecular weight of the above block	1.1^{*4}	1.4	1.9	3.3	9.8

*1:   90 x 0.1 = 9

*2:   92/9 = 10.2

*3:   90 x 0.9 = 81

*4:   87/81 = 1.07 = 1.1

As is clear from the above results, Nakamura et al. does not disclose the value of (the molecular weight of the random copolymer A or B/the molecular weight of the block

portion of the block copolymer corresponding to A or B) of 1.0 or less, unlike the invention of present claims 14 and 16.
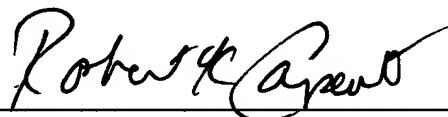
Thus, the definitions of the above-amended equations (III) and (IV) are not satisfied with those disclosed in Nakamura et al. It should be noted that the other parts of Nakamura et al. do not suggest the molecular weights of the random copolymers and each block of the block copolymer at all.

Thus, as Nakamura et al. is missing elements of present claims 14 and 16, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14 and 16 are not anticipated by and would not have been obvious over Nakamura et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are respectively requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 100021-09056. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to Attorney Docket No. 100021-09056.

Respectfully submitted,

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